the forces at his disposal Yuan Shih-kai could have reoccupied Wuchang had he desired to do so. Instead, he temporized and entered into negotiations with the insurgents. Dissensions had already broken out among the latter. General Li Yuan-liung and Huang Hsing, who had arrived on October 20, could not get on together. Yuan strove at first to effect a settlement on the basis of a constitutional monarchy, but to this the revolutionaries would not agree. When Hanyang, which had been defended by Huang Hsing, fell, General Li Yuan-hung was disposed to accept Yuan's terms. The fall of Nanking to the rebels a few days later, however, revived their morale ; Yuan Shih-Kai proposed an Armistice on December n, and appointed Tang Shao-yi, his Foreign Minister, as chief of the Northern Peace Delegation. Shanghai was selected as the venue of the negotiations, and a more unsuitable place could hardly have been chosen. It was in a ferment of enthusiasm for the Republic, and at the first session, on December 20, Tang Shao-yi agreed that the establishment of a Republic was unavoidable, and so reported to Yuan. He was disavowed, and dismissed from his post as Chief Imperial Delegate, but remained in Shanghai as the personal representative of the Premier.

In a statement which appeared in the *Times* Yuan Shih-kai related his own version of what had occurred from the time he became

Premier. Within a month of the Wu-Han revolt thirteen provinces had been lost and Chihli and Shantung were showing signs of disaffection. The Throne agreed to